

The logic of blacks being inferior was the reason why blacks were not allowed to go to school with white children. Some would say that today being inferior is the reason why blacks should not be admitted into certain schools with whites. For those who hold those beliefs, both ideas would restrict blacks from receiving the highest quality education, and that, Mr. Speaker, would be wrong.

Both then and to a degree now some would like people to believe that blacks are inferior to whites. They would want people to believe that God made lesser people. They would produce one study after another to try to convince the masses that blacks are doomed to their fate because they just do not have the same abilities as whites.

Mr. Speaker, they fail to note that children with college-educated parents do better on standardized tests than children of non-college-educated parents. It is very simple.

They refuse to appreciate that strong family values, education, a willingness to work hard, and the availability of opportunities can help strengthen all of our Nation's people.

As an example, Mr. Speaker, my mother graduated from high school but my father only had a sixth-grade education. He could barely read or write. Yet today, three of my sisters hold doctorate degrees, one of my brothers is a colonel in the Army, and my other brother is a schoolteacher in Ansonia, CT. Mr. Speaker, I am the only one in my family with one college degree.

Let us remember that we help our Nation by strengthening our weakest link, not by crushing it. Being compassionate toward the less fortunate is not a liberal or a conservative concept, because we are all Americans.

I thank the voters of the Fifth Congressional District of Connecticut, a 90-percent white district, for three times electing me, an African-American, to serve in this august body representing them.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to thank all the African-American leaders who have waged a fight for equality and justice over the decades. We must not forget our history, or else we may be subject to repeating it again.

IN SUPPORT OF FORT McCLELLAN, ALABAMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BROWDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, I know something about chemical warfare. I represent Fort McClellan, AL, home of the chemical school that trains our Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine personnel at the only live agent chemical defense facility in the free world.

I represent Anniston Army Depot, home of a huge stockpile of dangerous deteriorating chemical weapons which pose a threat to more than 100,000 civil-

ians who live or work in the impact zone of those weapons.

I serve on the House Committee on National Security as a specialist on chemical warfare, chemical weapons, and chemical defense.

□ 2030

I chaired a congressional study of the chemical weapons threat and what our country needs to do to counter that threat.

I have worked with the administration at home and abroad to facilitate progress on the Chemical Weapons Convention which would ban chemical weapons and the Bilateral Destruction Agreement which commits the United States and Russia to destroy our huge stockpile of old chemical weapons.

I have worked with the Chemical Weapons Convention Preparatory Commission at The Hague to support implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Bilateral Destruction Agreement.

I have traveled to Russia several times to monitor their chemical weapons and help military and civilian leaders meet the requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Bilateral Destruction Agreement.

To repeat, I know something about chemical warfare. And Mr. Speaker, I tell you that to demonstrate that while what I am about to say involves my own congressional constituency, my outrage goes beyond parochialism to our national and international security.

I am convinced that Secretary of Defense William Perry's recommendation to the Base Realignment and Closure [BRAC] Commission—specifically the proposal to close Fort McClellan, AL—is a mistake with significant and dangerous ramifications.

With this recommendation, the Pentagon jeopardizes the American soldier's ability to survive chemical warfare, breaks faith with the 100,000 Alabamians at risk from their neighboring stockpile of aging chemical weapons, and seriously undermines the Chemical Weapons Convention and Bilateral Destruction Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, time does not allow me to go into this discussion any further tonight but I will return for other special orders on other nights to point out what is wrong with this recommendation, and why it is significant, and dangerous for our world, and I will return to detail what I intend to do to correct this situation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PROGRESS IN HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOGLETTA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOGLETTA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I returned from Haiti. When I arrived there on Saturday I was emotionally overcome by what I saw. On my last visits to Haiti, prior to the return by President Aristide, I walked into the airport and there were soldiers with assault rifles, no citizens, no activity whatsoever, and few people standing around the airport, and as I walked into the town itself I had drawn empty stares, stares of fright.

The people of Haiti that I saw when I returned were a totally different situation. I walked into the airport and I saw happy people, smiling people, ladies dressed in native costumes, bands playing, stalls selling trinkets, but most of all, the people of Haiti were no longer afraid.

Upon reflection I realized that the drawn faces carried a look of hopelessness, of impending death, of a life without direction or inspiration on my prior visits. These looks were reminiscent of photographs of men and women who suffered in concentration camps in the Second World War.

For close to 3 years the people of Haiti were imprisoned in an island concentration camp. The names of the criminals who operated the camps were different, but atrocities committed in these places were very similar.

These nightly arrests, systematic executions and random beatings were taking place only 500 miles from our border and as a result of this brutality people were willing to risk their lives by taking to the high seas in leaky boats to escape. Sadly, hundreds of these men, women and children will not live to see the day that they could walk freely on the streets of their native country.

However, thanks to the actions of President Clinton and the American men and women in uniform who have served and who continue to serve in Haiti, people no longer live in fear. Democratic government and the rule of law have returned to Haiti. The army which under the direction of the murderous dictators, Cedras and Francois terrorized and murdered innocent Haitians has been abolished and a civilian-controlled police force is now being trained.

Much remains to be done in Haiti. It will take time and hard work to reverse the decades of violence, desperate poverty and fear which have plagued that country, and, much of the work is being undertaken by the Haitian people.

On my visit to Haiti this weekend, I saw more than just smiles. I saw Haitians cleaning their streets and their neighborhoods. I saw Haitians rebuilding small businesses and street vendors hawking their wares. I saw Haitians fixing and cleaning schools and classrooms.

Since his return, President Aristide has facilitated this change by preaching a message of reconciliation and peace. The Haitian people are responding. They are rebuilding their lives—not resorting to revenge against their former oppressors. Unlike Somalia, our soldiers are greeted with hugs—not rock throwing mobs.

Our mission to Haiti is one of the great military success stories of our time. Our troops have done a miraculous job. As our troops liberated Dachau and Auschwitz some fifty years ago, tho not as horrific the men and women of our armed forces liberated an island concentration camp in the Caribbean.

We have done the right thing in Haiti. You can see it in the neighborhoods, in the schools, you can see it in the churches and most of all you can see it on the smiling faces of the people of Haiti, for they are no longer afraid.

The Speaker pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. MFUME] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MFUME addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

EFFECTS OF THE RESCISSION BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. NADLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to protest the mean-spirited and draconian rescissions that have been reported out of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and the VA/HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees.

An excellent statement released yesterday by ACT-UP expresses quite directly the severity of these cuts.

Two House Subcommittees voted to rescind funding for AIDS programs that is already in the pipeline. The VA/HUD Appropriations Subcommittee voted to eliminate all \$188 million allocated for HOPWA, the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Program, eliminate all 3,000 Section 8 rental assistance vouchers set-aside for HIV-positive people, and cut \$2.7 billion in general Section 8 vouchers. The Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee cut \$13 million from the Ryan White CARE Act, which pays for medical care and services for people with HIV, and cut \$23 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's HIV prevention program.

The HUD funding cuts alone mean that New York City will lose \$41.7 million, Upstate New York \$2.2 million and Long Island \$1.2 million. In New York City, 700 units now housing over 1,000 people with AIDS and HIV disease and their family members will be lost.

Mr. Speaker, these severe slashes in housing funding will touch a wide range of American people—families, children, and seniors—but perhaps the most striking examples of heartlessness is putting sick and dying people

out on the streets. It is, Mr. Speaker, nothing but immoral. I am absolutely appalled at the insensitivity to human life that I have seen over the past 50 or so days here in the Congress. We must put an end to this slashing and burning of America's middle and low-income people and families, and of the most needy members of our society.

For more than a decade, the devastation of the AIDS pandemic has affected every American community and has touched most Americans in some way personally. AIDS cuts across gender, ethnic, racial, and socio-economic lines. The rate of increased infection is alarming. Ryan White CARE funding is essential for AIDS service providers to keep pace with the pandemic to continue and provide effective and cost-efficient HIV-related medical and social services.

Mr. Speaker, according to a recent and very disturbing, New York Times article,

AIDS has become the leading cause of death among all Americans aged 25 to 44 . . . this number has surpassed unintentional injury, which dropped to second place in this age group.

Since AIDS was first identified in the early 1980's, more than 440,000 cases have been documented and more than 250,000 AIDS-related deaths have resulted in the United States. More than 1 million people in the United States are believed to be HIV-positive, but have not yet contracted AIDS.

The Congressional district I represent in New York City is among the hardest hit by AIDS. With over 65,000 cases of AIDS—the highest number of any city in the country—in fact, more than 40,000 more cases than the next highest city, New York City has been the city most affected. Additionally, New York State, has approximately 20 percent of the Nation's AIDS cases, 81,386 cases. Ryan White funding is absolutely vital to many New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS.

But the AIDS crisis goes far beyond New York—Americans in communities across the Nation have felt the effects of AIDS in some way.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of the AIDS epidemic is felt by everyone, from all walks of life. As the number of people living with HIV and AIDS continues to rise and access to private health care remains an obstacle to treatment, Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Act and Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS funds are more critical than ever. Slashing these programs will interrupt early intervention and health care to thousands of Americans living with AIDS and will merely escalate the pain and suffering that millions of people with AIDS experience.

I call on my good colleagues in Congress to unite against these immoral attacks by the big bad wolf. If we are not careful they will come and huff and puff and blow our houses down. We can not allow our Nation's seniors, chil-

dren, families and people with AIDS to be put out in the streets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take a leadership role and join me in speaking out and working to oppose these Draconian, and mean-spirited cuts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

[Mr. BURTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE MORAL IMPLICATIONS OF ASSAULT ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, all of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus are very concerned about the latest development with respect to an announcement that affirmative action and the elimination of all aspects of affirmative action has been placed on the agenda of the Republican Party.

That concern is expressed in many different ways. Several of my colleagues were here yesterday, and they talked about the details of affirmative action from a very legalistic perspective. Several of them are lawyers and they understand the legal wranglings related to affirmative action, some are very familiar with the history of affirmative action laws, and they gave an interesting and useful background on affirmative action.

They make their contribution in their way, and I am, on the other hand, concerned about affirmative action from another point of view, the moral implications of the assault on affirmative action that is being projected by the Republican Party, by their leadership.

I am concerned about the fact that when you couple an assault on affirmative action with the nastier parts of the Contract With America, and the Contract With America is just beginning to manifest itself in all of its barbarity, and I use that word deliberately, because the aspects of the Contract With America which are going forward now have to do with taking school lunch programs away, limiting school lunch programs, and denying the entitlement to a free lunch to children in need.

□ 2145

It has to do with rescissions which are taking place to wipe out the summer youth program, one of the most practical, successful and much needed programs that we have, employing teenagers, young people during the